polymetallic nodules. In view of the schedule of meetings of the Commission, the secretariat has announced the training opportunity online. It is proposed that the Commission use the streamlined trainee selection process agreed upon in 2014 (see ISBA/20/LTC/13, paras. 11-13) in order to select duly qualified candidates and alternates from developing States at the end of March 2016.

8. Under the streamlined process, the Commission would appoint a training subgroup to recommend candidates for training opportunities, on the basis of the selection criteria and considerations approved by the Commission, and taking into account consultations between the contractor and the secretariat. The subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for training. The recommendations by the subgroup would be submitted to the Commission for approval by e-mail or other electronic means.

9. At its most recent session, the Commission noted that it would be timely to review its current recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programme under plans of work for exploration (see ISBA/21/C/16, para. 6), in particular in the light of its concern over the short notice provided by some contractors with regard to training opportunities. The Commission is invited to provide further guidance in this respect.